

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 CIEP-02 DRC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 /121 W

----- 006848

R 191525Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USDAO WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, GR

SUBJECT: DISSATISFACTION WITH AGRICULTURAL PRICES

1. STRONGLY-WORDED ATTACK ON GOVT AGRICULTURAL POLICY  
BY CHIEF EDITOR ELIAS KYROU IN "ELLINIKOS VORRAS"  
OF SEPT 19 REFLECTS GROWING UNHAPPINESS IN NORTHERN GREECE  
OVER AGRICULTURAL PRICE CEILINGS. KYROU CHARGES THAT  
LOW PRICES, PARTICULARLY FOR WHEAT, HAVE RESULTED IN  
MIGRATION OF FARMERS FROM LAND AND CLAIMS THAT IN  
RECENT YEARS, SEVENTY PERCENT OF GREEK EMIGRANTS HAVE  
COME FROM FARMING AREAS OF THRACE, MACEDONIA AND EPIRUS.

2. KYROU PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT GOVT DECISION OF  
SEPT 17 TO RAISE PRICES OF BREAD AND FLOUR WHILE, AT  
LEAST TEMPORARILY, HOLDING DOWN PRICES FOR WHEAT,  
BARLEY AND CORN. CAUSTIC TITLE OF EDITORIAL, "PREFER FOREIGN  
WHEAT\*", REFERS TO INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PRICES OF SIX  
DRS. PER KILO WHILE LOCAL PRICE LESS THAN HALF. KYROU  
MAINTAINS GREECE COULD ACTUALLY EXPORT FOUR TO FIVE  
HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF HARD WHEAT ANNUALLY IF DOMESTIC  
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PRICES WERE PERMITTED TO FLOAT TO DEMAND, THEREBY

STIMULATING SURPLUS FOR EXPORT. WITH CURRENT PRICE  
CEILINGS, GREECE MAY HAVE TO "SUBSIDIZE" BULGARIAN AND  
RUMANIAN FARMERS, KYROU WARNS, BY IMPORTING WHEAT AT 5.5  
DRS PER KILO.

3. SEPARATE ARTICLE IN SAME PAPER COMMENTS THAT NOBODY  
SATISFIED BY PERCEIVED INEQUITIES OF SEPT 17 PRICE  
REVISIONS AND FARMERS, BAKERS, AND MERCHANTS ARE "FACED  
WITH CATASTROPHE."

4. COMMENT: CONGEN CONTACTS CONFIRM KYROU'S HARSH VIEW AND  
GENERAL UNPOPULARITY HERE OF AGRICULTURAL PRICE CEILINGS.  
PRESIDENT OF THESSALONIKI MANUFACTURERS' ASSN. ANTONIADES  
(HIMSELF A GENTLEMAN FARMER) COMMENTED SEPT 19 THAT  
DISAFFECTION BY APPROX. ONE-THIRD LOCAL FARMERS INVOLVED  
IN WHEAT PRODUCTION IS LIKELY TO BE MAJOR POLITICAL  
PROBLEM HERE IF PRICES NOT REALIGNED SOON. HE CONSIDERS  
DISPARITY BETWEEN PRICES OF FINISHED FOOD PRODUCTS AND  
BASIC CROPS TO BE TOTALLY ILLLOGICAL AND, AT BEST, A  
CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO SET UP SITUATION IN WHICH NEW MARKEZINIS  
GOVT COULD ANNOUNCE ALLEVIATING MEASURES POPULAR WITH  
FARMERS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WHEAT, AGRICULTURAL PRICES, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, GRAINS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**From:** THESSALONIKI  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISSATISFACTION WITH AGRICULTURAL PRICES  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EAGR, GR  
**To:** STATE  
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